

House Local Government Committee - 2011

Amendments

1. Legislative staff will draft amendments only at the request of a legislator. A legislator must be willing to "sponsor" proposed amendments before the legislative services staff (drafter, editor, attorney) will devote time to an amendment.
2. Committee members are the only legislators who can move amendments to a bill while the bill is in committee.
3. Although legislators who are not on the committee may request that amendments be drafted, they must be able to convince a committee member to move, carry or "sponsor" the amendments while the bill is in committee.
4. It is best that requests of staff to draft amendments to a bill while it is in committee come from a member of the committee. Otherwise, if no committee member will agree to move the amendments, staff time will have been spent in drafting "dead" or non-introducible amendments. However, once on the floor of the House ("committee of the whole"), a bill may be amended by any legislator.

Timelines for Submission of Amendments

- Amendments should be verbally suggested or submitted in writing to the committee during the first reading hearing, and preferably not during the executive session.
- Amendments to be presented to the committee for consideration during executive session must be:
 - requested by a legislator (see 1 through 4 above); and
 - submitted in writing to staff for drafting, legal review, function and coordination analysis, and editing by noon of the day prior to executive action on the bill.
- This deadline will be even more important as the session progresses and more bills and amendments are up for consideration. Complicated amendments or substantive amendments to complex legislation can require considerable staff time to analyze, cross reference, draft, edit, and prepare accurately. Voting on conceptual amendments is risky in the event that they do not function once they are incorporated into the bill.

Exception:

- A minor amendment that requires no detailed analysis or editing (changing a word or date, clerical corrections, etc.) may be considered on shorter notice and/or during executive session at the discretion of the Chair.